Survey on Untouchability by National Law School, Bangaluru

846. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the harsh reality that untouchability still persists in villages and it seems to be rampant in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal as per a survey conducted by the National Law School, Bangaluru;

(b) whether it is a fact that Dalits are not allowed to enter temples and fetch water from the public water wells and tanks; and

(c) if so, the steps that are being taken to attain zero-untouchability situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The National Law School, in their sample study report, 2008, on 'Evaluation of the Protection of Civil Rights Acts, 1955 and its impact on the eradication of untouchability; conducted in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal, had studied various facets of untouchability.

Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished practice of untouchability; its practice in any from is forbidden and is an offence punishable in accordance with law. An Act of Parliament, namely, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from preaching and practice of untouchability.

The said Act is implemented by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. With a view to ensure effective implementation of provisions of the Act central assistance is provided to States/Union Territories, which includes strengthening of the enforcement machinery, incentive for inter caste marriages and awareness generation. They are requested to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. Reviews meetings are also held with State Governments from time to time.

Thorium Oxide from Monazite

847. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Thorium Oxide that can be obtained from Monazite; and

(b) the time schedule for generating nuclear power from the Thorium Oxide (ThO_2)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Monazite available in India contains about 9% Thorium Oxide.

(b) While in technological terms we are ready with the design of Advanced Heavy Water Reactor which would produce around two third of its energy from Thorium, large scale deployment of Thorium for power generation will be mainly in the third stage. This can start once large generation capacity based on fast reactors has been set up in the second stage of our nuclear power programme.

Contracts signed by ISRO

848. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of contracts that ISRO signed during the last five years, including the recent contract with Aerion Space;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 2010 ISRO is going to launch satellites of France, Algeria, Germany, Canada, Indonesia, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what would be the income that ISRO is going to generate through the above agreements and in what manner it is planning to generate revenue through such commercial dealings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The details of contracts that ISRO signed during the last five years, including the recent contract with Ariane Space:—

Date of Contract	Agencies	Purpose	Status
22nd August, 2007	Arianespace	Launch of INSAT-4G	Launch Scheduled for 2010

The details of contracts signed by ISRO through its commercial arm ANTRIX, for launch of foreign satellites are furnished in the given Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In 2010, ISRO is going to launch the following satellites of foreign, countries with Piggyback along with our satellites using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle:—

(i) ALSAT from Algeria weighing about 150 Kgs.

(ii) NLS.-6 Nano satellite from Canada weighing about 25 Kgs.

(iii) AISAT from German Space Agency, Germany weighing about 10 Kgs.

(iv) X-Sat from Nanyang Technological University of Singapore weighing about 110 Kgs

(v) PORTIERES Nano satellite from Japan weighing about 10 Kgs.

(d) The income that ISRO is going to generate through the above agreements made by its commercial arm, Antrix Corporation Limited is about 6 MILLION US Dollars. In future, it is